

Illinois LRE Data Cohort

The Special Education and Support Services division of the Illinois State Board of Education is seeking school districts to participate in an exciting opportunity to evaluate and improve the placement of students with disabilities in their appropriate learning environments.

An LRE Data Cohort is being formed to provide districts with hands-on assistance in using their data to analyze and improve placement options for students with disabilities. Districts will take part in activities that will assist them in the following actions: (1) identifying relevant data to address problems/concerns with student placements, (2) conducting data analysis to determine placement patterns, (3) utilizing data to hypothesize about the root cause for placements that are not in alignment with state goals, (4) planning for improvement, and (5) evaluating progress toward measurable goals.

As a part of this opportunity, selected districts will be asked to assemble a local team to participate in this process. The team should not exceed six members and must include an administrator, a data analyst, and representatives from both the special education and general education domains. Districts participating in the LRE Data Cohort will attend three meetings in 2012 (January, March, and October) at locations to be announced when the roster of participating LEAs is complete. ISBE will additionally assign staff consultants to support participating districts' work through conference calls, webinars, and on-site technical assistance. Through participation in this project, districts will be able to develop a data analysis plan using their own local data on educational environment factors in order to identify the root cause impacting low performance on the educational environment measure as delineated in Indicator 5. As a part of our State Performance Plan, our goal for Indicator 5 for the 2011-2012 school year is 51.0%, and we believe that this partnership with districts will greatly improve our chances at attaining this statewide goal.

To volunteer and be considered for the cohort, contact Erin Saxton at (217) 782-5589 or via e-mail at esaxton@isbe.net or contact Krista Hinton at (312) 814-5560 or via e-mail at khinton@isbe.net by Sept. 30, 2011.